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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re the Application of:

Garth Aaron Hystad

Serial No.: 09/776,530

Filed: February 3, 2001

Atty. File No.: 45303-00070

For: "METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR  
DECK AND RAIL CONSTRUCTION  
USING WOOD COMPOSITES"

) Group Art Unit: 3635

) Examiner: Yvonne M. Horton

) **AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE**  
) **TO OFFICE ACTION**

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING	
I Hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as FIRST CLASS MAIL in an envelope addressed to the ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, Washington, D.C. 20231 on December 11, 2002.	
By:	Holme Roberts & Owen LLP <i>Rebecca A. Wilson</i>

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir/Madam:

In response to the Office Action mailed June 11, 2002, Applicant, in a separate attachment, hereby requests a three (3) month extension of time. Applicant herein enters certain amendments and new claims and presents arguments to place this case in condition for allowance.

**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

Paragraph 1 of the Office Action states there is no support in the specification for the "slot" of Claim 17. This support is found on page 3 of the specification, lines 8-10 from the top of the page. In view of this support, it is believed there is no need to amend Claim 17 to remove the word "slot."

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend Claims 1, 8, 9, 11, and 17. Please cancel Claims 2, 3, 4, 12-16, 18-32. Please add new Claims 33 - 48. Pending Claims now are 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 17, and 33-48. A clean version of the pending claims is attached in separate sheets.

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GROUP 3600